[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Equipment for Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai.

408. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether all the surgical instruments and other equipment recommended by Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai for his special work in the General Hospital have been obtained by the Government and whether all convenience for his special work has been afforded to him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A few months before Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai's return to Travancore, he sent from Edinburgh a list of instruments required for his special department. The list contained 135 items. In the letter forwarding the list, he explicitly stated that it contained all the instruments required for his purpose. The Darbar Physician asked Dr. Raman Pillai to visit the firm of Messrs. Down Bros., in London, and personally select the articles. Dr. Raman Pillai cabled that the cost would be £. 322 and this was sanctioned by the Government on the recommendation of the Darbar Physician. The actual cost of supply, however, came to £. 441-15-7. In the meantime Dr. Raman Pillai sent a second list of 126 articles to the Darbar Physician and asked for their supply. But the latter took no action on it, partly because several articles contained in that list had been included in the first list and partly because Dr. Raman Pillai had explicitly stated that the first list comprised all the articles required by him. Later on, he sent a third list of fifty articles. The Darbar Physician says that ten of these articles had been included in the first list, thirteen are either available in the General Medical Stores or can be locally purchased, and that the others are either similar to articles supplied according to the first list or are not indispensable. Dr. Raman Pillai has condemned nine of the articles supplied to him, but according to the Darbar Physician they are all articles contained in the first list. The Darbar Physician says that the number and variety of the articles supplied to Dr. Raman Pillai are more than sufficient for his special work and that all reasonable conveniences have been afforded to him for carrying it on.

Loss due to Erosion of the Sea in Kartikapalli Taluk.

409. MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the area of land on the sea coast of Pudupalli *proverthi* in the Karunagapalli taluk and Mutukulam *proverthi* in the Kartikapalli taluk eroded by the sea and the Kayankulam bar and the amount of loss sustained by the people during the last fifteen years, as also what help was rendered to them by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is reported that some lands were encroached upon by the sea in the Putupalli *pakuthi*, Karunagapalli taluk, within the last 15 years, but that, as there was no application for remission of tax, the exact area encroached upon has not been ascertained nor were any further steps taken.

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As for Mutukulam *proverthi*, Kartikapalli taluk, an extent of about 137 acres was encroached upon by the sea in the Arattupuzha *pakuthi* of the same *proverthi* within the last 15 years. The tax on these lands has been struck off the accounts. Government have no information in regard to the loss sustained by the people on account of encroachments by the sea and the bar. Government cannot afford relief in such cases.

Prawn Industry in Travancore.

410. MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the prawn industry in the State is handicapped by continuous and heavy fluctuations of prices in the Rangoon market?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the effect of fluctuations in prices in the Rangoon market upon the fisherfolk and their industry in the State and take immediate steps to improve the position?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government are informed that the prices of prawns in the Rangoon market are subject to continuous and heavy fluctuations.

(*b*) Such fluctuations cannot be regulated by any action of the Government. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Director of Industries will be instructed to help the fisherfolk concerned with suggestions and advice.

Mr. A. O. Jacob as X-ray Expert.

411. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Is it a fact that one Mr. A. O. Jacob has been ordered by the Darbar Physician to undergo X-ray training in England at his own expense on the understanding that he would be provided with a place in the Medical Department on his return?

(*b*) Was any one in the department asked whether he was prepared to undergo training at his own expense in England?

(*c*) Why did the Government not depute medical men already in the service to undergo training at Dehra Dhun?

(*d*) Have the Government given an undertaking that Mr. A. O. Jacob will be entertained in the service as soon as he returns after training?

(*e*) Do the Government intend to retain him permanently in the X-ray Department on his return?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Mr. A. O. Jacob B. A., M. B. B. S., applied to the Darbar Physician and the Government stating that he would specialise in electro-therapeutics in England if the Government would entertain him in the Medical Department on his return. On the recommendation of the Darbar Physician, Government sanctioned the acceptance of Mr. Jacob's offer subject to the following conditions:

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